

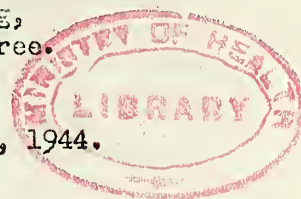
BRAINTREE & BOCKING URBAN DISTRICT.

HEALTH
A 20 SEP 1944
C.R. 31

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ACTING MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1943.

Public Health Offices,
St. Peter's Close,
Bocking,
Braintree.

September, 1944.



Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you a short report on the health and sanitary conditions of the district during the year 1943. As in recent years, war-time conditions have necessitated the curtailment of this report and again the bulk of the usual statistical information has been omitted. The Chief Sanitary Inspector has incorporated herewith a short summary of the work of his department.

The general health of the Urban District has remained good, and there has been no serious outbreak of infectious disease.

GENERAL HEALTH SERVICES.

There were no changes in the general health services provided in the district during the year.

Legislation in Force.

No new byelaws were adopted or came into force during the year.

Staff.

No changes in Staff have taken place during the year.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

The Notley Road and Bocking Waterworks were again used for supply purposes during the year.

During May, the electrically operated pumping set at the Notley Road Waterworks was fitted with a new pump, and the output was materially increased. The average daily pumping hours have been reduced from 24 to 20 hours.

The Chlorination Plant was operated continuously. A further Chlorination plant for the emergency booster supply from Courtauld's is under consideration. Alterations have been made in order that the emergency supply may be fitted with a chlorination plant immediately required.

Sampling by the Sanitary Inspector provides a monthly analysis of the water supplied to consumers, and a quarterly analysis of the raw supply.

Seven samples were taken during the year. Three from Braintree and three from Bocking. In addition, one sample of the Emergency booster supply was reported as satisfactory. Reports were received from the County Bacteriologist as follows :-

Braintree Supply. 21. 6. 43.

This sample is clear and bright in appearance, neutral in reaction and free from metals apart from an insignificant trace of iron. The water has very moderate hardness, the normal high content of salinity and is of very satisfactory organic and bacterial purity.

These results are consistent with a wholesome water suitable for public supply purposes.

Bocking Supply. 20. 7. 43.

This sample is reasonably clear and bright in appearance, neutral in reaction and free from metals apart from a trace of iron. The water contains no excess of saline or mineral matter in solution, is of good organic quality and a high standard of bacterial purity.

These results are consistent with a pure and wholesome water suitable for the purposes of a public supply.

The water is hard in character although not to an abnormal degree.

Drainage and Sewerage.

Braintree Works.

Owing to the more frequent emptying of the settling and humus tanks there has been an improvement in the quality of the effluents for these works. They still, however, fail to comply with County Council standard.

Bocking Works.

These works continue to produce a satisfactory effluent. The remainder of the sprinkler arms were replaced this year.

Several new connections were made to the sewers during 1943.

Sanitary Inspection.

During the year, inspections were made as a result of complaints of nuisances and of defects in dwelling houses etc.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

A sample taken from the Council's swimming pool was reported to be of a satisfactory standard of bacterial purity, but on account of organic contamination it was decided that additional filtration was needed.

HOUSING.

No inspections were carried out. Visits on complaint were made in respect of defects. Certain houses previously condemned under the Housing Acts were put into a reasonable state of repair, and used for housing homeless people, under temporary licence granted by the Council.

Milk.

There was no change in the licences granted to producers and retailers of designated milk.

A considerable number of complaints of the souring of milk were received during the year. Investigations were carried out and seven test samples were submitted to Bacterial examination. Various causes contributed to the souring of milk, but the principal factor appeared to be the age of the milk as received by the consumer due to transport time, inconvenient time of arrival in the town, and retailers being restricted to one delivery per day. Representations were made to achieve a higher standard of bacterial purity in the milk arriving in the town. The matter is still being pursued, but it is not yet entirely satisfactory.

Improvements have been carried out at dairies where this milk is stored and one new dairy has been constructed.

Meat.

The scheme for centralised slaughtering under the Ministry of Food continued during the year. Two slaughterhouses and occasionally a third have been used exclusively by the Ministry. The remainder of the

privately owned slaughterhouses have not been used. Licensed slaughterhouses in the district numbered 6, and knacker's yards 1.

During the year, 10,255 animals were slaughtered for human consumption. Of these, 9,444 or 92.1% were inspected. The total amount of unsound food condemned during this period was 36.58 tons. In most cases the food was salvaged and used for trade purposes other than human consumption.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The following is a list of the cases of Infectious Disease reported to me during 1943 :-

Cerebro-Spinal Fever.	2	Whooping Cough.	1
Polio-myelitis.	1	Measles.	48
Scarlet Fever.	62	Pneumonia.	11
Diphtheria.	1		

Cases of Scarlet Fever occurred during the last three months of the year.

Diphtheria Prophylaxis.

Monthly sessions have been held at the Combined Treatment Centre, Coggeshall Road, Braintree, and have been well attended by children of pre-school age. The greater number of school children have now been given protective treatment against Diphtheria.

The total number of children immunised in the Urban District at the end of 1945 was as follows :-

Children age 5 - 15 (i.e., school children)	1,769.
Children under 5 (i.e., pre-school children)	643.

These figures represent approximately 83.3% and 58.6% of the child population of the district in the respective age groups.

Tuberculosis.

The total number of cases on the Tuberculosis Register at the end of the year was 115, and was made up as follows :-

Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
34	33	21	27

New cases notified during 1943 numbered 24 and were made up as follows :-

Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
5	11.	4	4

During the year there were 11 deaths from Tuberculosis.

EVACUATION.

During the year, considerable time was spent on finding and equipping accommodation for homeless persons and the provision of billets.

Boleyns Hostel continues to be used as a treatment hostel for evacuees from a considerable portion of southern England.

I wish to express my thanks to the Council Officers who have assisted me in compiling this report.

I am,
Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

L. YOUATT.

Acting Medical Officer of Health.

